



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

NEW JERSEY ICE ENDS FISCAL YEAR WITH MORE THAN 5,000 ARRESTS AND REMOVALS

Arrests and Removals Include Dangerous Criminals, Sexual Predators and Fugitives

NEWARK, N.J – The New Jersey office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today announced that ICE agents and officers in the state completed more than 5,300 successful enforcement actions, including arrests and deportations, during the fiscal year that ended on September 30th. These enforcement actions reflect ICE's continuing efforts to address individuals and organizations in New Jersey that pose national security or public safety threats.

ICE's Office of Investigations and Office of Detention and Removal Operations announced the enforcement actions jointly. The arrests and deportations include some of the worst of the criminal element, according to ICE Special Agent in Charge Kyle Hutchins and ICE Detention and Removal Field Office Director Ray Simonse.

The successful enforcement year included 467 arrests for criminal violations of customs and immigration laws, as well as 1,590 arrests for administrative immigration violations. The enforcement results also include the deportation of 2,400 criminal and immigration violators. The New Jersey Fugitive Operations team also arrested 892 fugitives from justice with final orders of removal based on criminal convictions, immigration violations or warrants from other countries. The removal of criminal aliens from the United States has become a national priority.

The two major ICE enforcement programs complement each other by investigating and dismantling criminal organizations -- such as drug, alien, or weapons smuggling organizations -- and then removing foreign national criminals from the streets of New Jersey. ICE is using a coordinated approach to enforcing customs and immigration laws with the goal of making the Garden State a safer place for its residents.

Detention and Removal FOD Raymond Simonse pointed out that many of the successful criminal cases from the investigations program are subsequently removed from the country after serving their convictions. Failure to obey removal orders from an immigration court makes a person a fugitive, Simonse said, and ICE officers are dedicated to enforcing the court order.

Simonse said, "Apprehending nearly 900 individuals in one year should put fugitives on notice we are searching for you and when we find you, we will remove you."

The fiscal year 2005 enforcement actions included:

- 467 criminal arrests
- 1,590 administrative immigration arrests
- 892 immigration fugitive apprehensions
- 2,400 removals
- 143 successful federal indictments
- 189 federal court convictions

Some of the significant ICE criminal investigations included:

- A year long ICE investigation into a fraudulent documents ring operating in New Jersey and Pennsylvania resulted in the arrest of eight individuals, including the woman who is the ring leader and a former policeman who is a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation official. The investigation included ICE agents, federal prosecutors, the Waterfront Commission of New York harbor, and the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office. The arrests dismantled a criminal organization that provided hundreds of Pennsylvania drivers' licenses to illegal aliens and others who wanted to obtain false identities. (Release 11/27/05)
- Ten individuals were charged in an international human smuggling ring that lured young Honduran women to the U.S. for forced labor. The case involved an intensive investigation by ICE, the Department of Labor and Honduran authorities. (Release July 21, 2005)
- Three Chinese nationals were charged in a million dollar fraud scheme against their employer. The defendants were pushing sales through straw-buyers and demanding bribe payments, as well as creating front-companies and falsifying corporate records to hide their scheme from their employer. This enabled the defendants to pocket a portion of the proceeds from the sales transactions for their own financial benefit and defraud their employer out of more than one million dollars. (Release 5/10/05)
- ICE arrested 14 members and associates of MS-13 GANG in New Jersey on drug conspiracy, document fraud and immigration charges. The suspected leader of MS-13 in Elizabeth is among those arrested. (Release 6/15/05)

Significant removals and fugitive apprehensions included;

- Gocha Gabidauri, a citizen of the Republic of Georgia, was removed from Newark in February of 2005. Gabidauri was wanted in his home country for murder. Georgian authorities had been seeking Gabidauri for several years and he had an active Interpol warrant for murder. The Newark Detention and Removal Office received a thank you from the U.S. Ambassador to Georgia for apprehending and removing the suspect.
- On April 8, 2005, Jon Paul Kirton was deported to Guyana. Kirton had an extensive criminal history including charges of weapons possession, assault on a police officer, resisting arrest, battery and domestic violence and sexual assault. The charges stemmed from crimes in New Jersey, Florida and Texas.
- On November 8, 2004, the Newark Fugitive Ops Team arrested Librado Herrera-Perez wanted in Mexico for murder. Herrera-Perez was considered one of Mexico's most wanted fugitives. According to Mexican authorities Herrera-Perez was involved in a shootout with Mexican police and a public execution-style murder in February of 2002. He was escorted back to Mexico to face the charges.
- In March of 2005 the Fugitive Operations Unit was involved in regional task force operation which netted Fernando Espinal of the Dominican Republic. The suspect was one of Camden New Jersey's Most Wanted

involving murder and attempted murder. According to Camden Police he stabbed a man with a sword. The victim died of his wounds.

Both Hutchins and Simonse attributed the successful year to the dedication and hard work of New Jersey ICE agents and officers. Both enforcement managers also thanked the United State's Attorneys office, other federal agencies and partners in state, county and local police agencies for their significant assistance and support throughout the year.

ICE #

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.